

Priorswood Primary School

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Primary School

Head of School: Mrs Carly Ellis

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Dear Parents/Carers

The Role of Forest School and Equipment needed

At Priorswood Primary School we believe it is vital to develop children's education in the widest possible way. As well as teaching academic subjects we believe it is our responsibility to build the resilience, independence and social skills of the children. Research has proven that Forest School can play an important role in developing all aspects of a child. It gives the children an opportunity to spend an afternoon outdoors learning in a completely different way to the conventional classroom model.

Children benefit in many ways through Forest School activities such as; Respect for the environment, physical health, self-esteem, social skills, problem solving and independence.

There is an element of risky play. Why is risky play such an important part of childhood? Children need to be kept safe from harm and hazards at all times, but they also need to explore and take risks. Risky play allows children to challenge themselves physically, emotionally and mentally.

Equipment

In order to take a full and active part in Forest School, children should come properly prepared. They will get muddy, and clothes might get grass-stained and torn, so we recommend old clothes that are not valuable! Children will go outside in wet weather so a waterproof is recommended. We do have spare welly boots if your child forgets them on occasion. However, this isn't a replacement for purchasing your child their own. Remember how changeable the weather can be. Even on a hot summer morning there is always the chance that it will cloud over and rain, so a light waterproof (pac-a-mac) is a good idea even in the summer.

	Summer Forest School – warm and sunny...	Winter Forest School – cold and wet...
Yes	Light trousers/jeans T shirt Long sleeved hoody/jacket Sunhat Apply sun-cream at start of day Hayfever sufferers - Take anti-histamine before coming to school Old trainers or walking boots/shoes	Old warm clothes Waterproof coat Welly boots Two pairs of socks when wearing welly boots Gloves, hat and scarf if it is really cold Several layers in the cold are better than one thick one Waterproof trousers Alternative footwear for inside wear
No	Strappy tops/vest tops Shorts Sandals/crocs	Canvas shoes or ballet pumps

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ellis
Head of School